

SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



CHRISTMAS IN MARION

One of the many things Marion does well is Christmas. From the awesome lights, luminaries, wreaths and more that line Main Street, to the numerous special events lined up for the first weekend in December, Marion is a special place during the holidays. Don't forget the parade on Saturday afternoon and the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, followed by the fireworks at Withlacoochee Park. For entire details, see the schedule below.

City of Marion
Annual
Holiday Prelude &
Community Tree Lighting Celebration

Saturday, December 1st
HMRA Prelude to Christmas 9am-1pm
Marion Christmas Parade 4:30pm
Sponsored by the Marion Chamber of Commerce

Sunday, December 2nd
Annual City Tree Lighting Celebration 6pm
Marion County Courthouse
Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park 7pm

Saturday, December 8th
Pilot Club of Marion Bazaar 10am
Marion County Museum Luncheon 12-2pm
Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes 2-6pm
Sponsored by Marion Chamber of Commerce & the Pilot Club of Marion

Thursday, December 13th:
Downtown Marion Merchants' Extended Shopping Hours
6-8pm Downtown Marion

*call the Chamber office for information/details 843-423-3561

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR THE CITY OF MARION'S**

ANNUAL

**CHRISTMAS
TREE LIGHTING
CELEBRATION**

Sunday, December 2nd at 6pm

**FIREWORKS AT
WITHLACOOCHEE PARK AT 7PM!**



Wishing you peace, joy and all the best the holiday has to offer. May this season of giving and spending time with the family bring you joy that lasts throughout the year.

Merry Christmas - Marion City Council

HMRA Presents

Nov. 19 -
Dec. 14

**Shop Local
& Win**

With any \$5 or more purchase, enter into the drawing to win one of three \$100 Marion Chamber of Commerce Gift cards. One entry per transaction. One gift card will be specifically drawn for late night shoppers on 12/13. Winners will be announced 12/17.

Shop

**EXTENDED
HOURS**

Our businesses downtown will be
open extended hours:

Saturday, December 8 until 4 pm

Thursday, December 13 until 8 pm

*Visit Historic
Marion, SC*

*Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes
will also feature
Bazaar & Luncheon*

*Saturday, December 8, 2018
2pm-6pm*

*Tickets for Home Tour—\$20
Luncheon—\$10 (12noon-2pm)
Bazaar—10am-2pm*

*Ticket pick-up, bazaar & luncheon will be
held at Marion Opera House, 200 West Godbold Street*

For information call 843-423-3561

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

- Mayor Ashley Brady**, (843) 992-3773
- Alan Ammons**, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Gwendolyn Davis**, City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown**, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Ainsley Sanders**, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Gray**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Cliff Wilbanks**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Randy Brown**, Maintenance Superintendent (843) 423-5961
- Winky Fore**, Public Works Superintendent (843) 423-8648
- Tony Flowers**, Police Chief (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith**, Captain (843) 423-8616
- Lt. Marilyn Rogers**, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Sgt. Derrick Smith**, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Jackie Yates**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins**, Victim Advocate / Administrative Assistant, (843) 423-8616

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion’s Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor’s of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multifarms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Ashley Brady or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month



Mrs. Virginia Miller-Davis of 701 Green Street has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for November 2018. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community’s unique character. Mr. & Mrs. Miller-Davis will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

Safety Checkpoints

The City of Marion Police Department will be conducting DUI Sobriety and Traffic Safety checkpoints within the city limits of Marion throughout the month of December.

Thank you to the citizens of Marion for allowing us to serve you. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please be safe and pay attention to your surroundings.

Tony Flowers- Chief of Police along with the Marion Police Department

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

“Honor to the soldier everywhere who bravely bears his country’s cause. Honor, also to the citizen who cares for his brothers in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.” **Abraham Lincoln**

The City of Marion hosted another incredible Veteran’s Day Program this year to honor our local military heroes and their families. The Veterans were saluted with the National Anthem at the beginning of the program, led by Priscilla Rogers. Mayor Ashley Brady opened by sharing some heartfelt words about his recent visit to Washington DC on a school field trip with his daughter. He spoke about their tours of several memorial sites which included the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the World War II and Korean War Memorials, the Marine and Air Force Memorials, and Arlington National Cemetery. On the trip, Mayor Brady was able to talk with his daughter and several other students and he explained to them that the names listed on the walls had given their lives for our country and were to be remembered as our fallen heroes. These men and women are the reason we are free today. This year’s guest speaker was Rodney Berry, District Director for Congressman Tom Rice, who shared about his experience serving in the United States Marine Corps. If you were unable to attend this program, you missed a wonderful tribute to our veterans. Please mark your calendar and join us for next year’s event!

Even though Veteran’s Day has past, we still say thank you to all of the many veterans in our community for all they have done to keep us safe and free. Our veterans are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Photos are on the City Facebook page. www.marionsc.gov

Annual Christmas Food Box

We are pleased to announce the City of Marion’s 9th Annual Christmas Food Box Project! During this joyous holiday season, we want to help provide a little Christmas cheer from one neighbor to another. The program has been wildly successful, thanks to the generous gifts of the city’s residents and businesses. The pre-packaged food boxes cost approximately \$40 and are filled with items for an enjoyable Christmas meal for a family. Donations are welcome in any amount and will be combined with other donations to help make purchases.

Donations are requested by December 12th and any amount is welcome! If you would like to contribute to this effort, please make your check payable to the City of Marion (food boxes) c/o Patricia Brown, 107 S. Main St., P O Box 1190, Marion, SC 29571.

If you have any questions, please call City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

On behalf of the food box recipients, we humbly thank you for your generosity.

Warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season!!!

CPR Classes

Marion Fire Department will be teaching CPR classes on December 6, 2018 starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Marion Fire Department. For more information and to register, please contact Chief Trey Cooper at (843) 423-8602 or email tcooper@marionsc.gov.

Mark your calendars!!



Each month there is a Marion Foodie meeting and a Marion Film Club meeting, sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County. Call Randy Floyd (843) 992-1627 or email floydandy@hotmail.com for information.

Saturday, December 1st...9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Marion Chamber of Commerce: Prelude to Christmas

Saturday, December 1st...4:30 p.m. Marion Christmas Parade.

Saturday, December 1st...6:00 p.m. Holiday movie at Opera House.

Sunday, December 2nd...5:30 p.m. The arrival of Santa Claus aboard the City of Marion Fire Truck. Pre-Christmas Tree Lighting Show: Courthouse 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, December 2nd...6:00 p.m. Tree Lighting Celebration. **Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park Immediately following Ceremony.**

Wednesday, December 5th...8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Hulon's Jewelers, 325 N. Main Street

Thursday, December 6th...9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. CPR classes. Marion Fire Department located on 109 E. Bond Street, Marion.

Thursday, December 6th...10:00 a.m. The Azalea Garden Club of Marion, celebrating Arbor Day. **Hike and Bike Trail**

Saturday, December 8th...Extending Shopping Hours at participating Historic District Businesses until 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 8th...10:00 a.m. Pilot Club of Marion Bazar Marion County Museum Luncheon 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. . For more information contact Marion County Museum, Director Ms. Rosanne Black at (843) 423-8299 or email marioncountymuseum@att.net
Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes. 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sponsored by Marion Chamber of Commerce and the Pilot Club of Marion.

Sunday, December 9th... 2:00 p.m. The Polar Express. Shannon Wilkerson Gym, 709 N. Main St. Marion. Admission \$5.00 (Ages 2 & Under Free).

Tuesday, December 11th...6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

Thursday, December 13th... Late Night Shopping Hours Historic Downtown Marion. Great Holiday Discounts, Christmas Treats and much more until 8:00 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, December 24th, 25th & 26th... Christmas Holidays. City Hall will be closed for the Christmas Holidays and reopen on December 27th. Merry Christmas and be safe!!!

Marion County Library Program

December 1st - 30th is Winter Reading! This program does not require registration. Children and their families need only keep track of hours read in the month of December. Every time your child reads or is read to for one hour, they will receive a prize at either branch. Adults get a chance to enter into a raffle for every book they read! There are also a lot of exciting programs available this month! Storytime will be available at the Marion Library at 9:30AM on Thursday, December 6th and Thursday, December 20th. The 6th is also the date of Cooking with Kids which will take place at 4:00PM in Marion. Kids of all ages are invited to the main branch to create a seasonal treat. December 20th at 4:00 p.m., the Marion Library will also be having Family Crafternoon. A fun craft for all ages! However, our biggest event this month will be on December 10th will be our annual Gingerbread House Party at 5:00 p.m. Each child will be able to decorate their own edible gingerbread house! This event will take place at the Marion Opera House.

For more information stop by the library or call us at (843) 423-8300. Follow us on Facebook for updates! Marioncountylibrary.org

Arbor Day Celebration

The Azalea Garden Club of Marion cordially invites you to their Arbor Day Celebration on **Friday, December 7, 2018** at 10:00 a.m. at the **Hike and Bike Trail** located on Bobby Gerald Parkway for the planting of one Muskogee Crepe Myrtle In Honor of and in Memory of our United States Veterans. We hope you can attend.

Happy Holidays

First and foremost, Merry Christmas to our City employees who have been working intensely to make this town the best prettiest little decorated town in hopes that it will add to your holiday spirit. The leaders who have been the backbone of our city, the small business owners who are the thread which holds our city together, to our wonderful community volunteers and everyone in between, my heartfelt thanks to you all. You give the City of Marion strength and help make it a great place to work, live and play.

As we celebrate this holiday season, I hope we will continue to spend this time with family and friends and use this time to reflect and count our blessings. The greatest gift we could exchange this season is to serve one another. May I ask you all to remember your neighbors at this time of year? Especially, remember the elderly, the less fortunate and those who live alone.

On behalf of the City of Marion, I wish every resident a safe, healthy, relaxed and happy Christmas. It is an honor to serve the City of Marion and I am again thankful this Christmas for the trust you place in me. Please drive safe if you are travelling.

From my family to you and your family, Merry Christmas!

Ashley Brady
Mayor

A-TEAM MARION SC NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

"We Are Our Neighbors' Keepers"

By: Dolly Boyer

Happy Holidays from A-Team. In years past I have covered safety tips for the holiday season, so this year I am just going to caution everyone to be cautious and use common sense. As the holidays approach, many of us will be reflecting on the year coming to a close. We will all be thinking about the headlines from around the country and the world. Most of those headlines deal with violence. No headline will grip us like the tragedy we watched play out in Florence. We all know the danger law enforcement faces every day. We shouldn't wait for a tragedy to strike to show our officers that we respect and appreciate them. The truth is they are not adequately compensated and may never be with budgets so stretched. So what can we do as citizens? We can show them respect and kindness and teach our children to do the same. We can show them we appreciate them. This time of year most of us will be spending extra time in the kitchen. We can bake an extra batch of cookies or something and drop them off at our law enforcement agencies. It brightens their day when they stop in for a cup of coffee and find a homemade treat. This is the perfect time of year to spread a little cheer. We meet the first Monday of each month at the Firehouse on E Bond St. For more information contact me @ 843-433-0941. Hope to see you at a meeting soon!

Preparing for the Holidays

The Christmas holidays are approaching. We as a community want to do everything possible to make sure we stay safe. Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you prepare for the holidays:

- 🌟 Make sure your home and car(s) are secure
- 🌟 Trim your hedge bushes
- 🌟 Make sure you have proper lighting
- 🌟 Be aware of suspicious activities
- 🌟 Be on the lookout for unfamiliar vehicle(s)
- 🌟 Observe your neighbor(s) property especially if you know they aren't home

If you see anything or anyone you think maybe suspect, don't hesitate to call 911 so an officer can be dispatched and respond in a timely manner.

Have a wonderful and Safe Holiday,
Marion Police Department

.....**GOING ON IN MARION**.....

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Martin's Service Center

Written by Promotions Team of Historic Marion Revitalization Association



Martin's Service Center, owned and operated by Scott Martin, is located on 201 North Main Street, Marion, S.C. The full-service station is open for business Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Martin's Service Center was previously owned by L.C. Collins in the late

1900's. He rented it to Aaron Martin, father of Scott Martin, from 1980 to 1989 and in 1989, Aaron bought the business. In 1990, Aaron remodeled the business and it was named Marion Exxon. Nearly 5 years later, Aaron decided to become independent and the service station became Martin's Service Center. Scott began working at the station in 1980 and upon graduation from Florence-Darlington Tech in 1989, Scott began working full time at the station. He worked alongside his father until his father passed in 2013. Scott continues to follow in his father's footsteps by treating every customer fairly and always standing behind his work. Scott enjoys serving his hometown and having the opportunity to interact with the people he has known his entire life. Scott also enjoys meeting new people and sharing the history of the business and the impact that his father's hard-work ethic had on his life. Martin's Service Center offers a variety of automotive services including gas, oil change, alignment, tire rotation, and all other mechanic work. The station also sells non-ethanol gas which is perfect for small engines. In the future, Scott plans to continue welcoming people into Marion and growing the "family" of friends and customers that he has met through his business. He also continues to teach his daughter, Hannah, how to be a business owner and the ins and outs of owning a business since she also wants to become a business owner in the future. Scott continues to be a positive influence on his family and members of the community and a great example of an honest, hard-working man.

Baseball Camp

Coach Kip Herlong's Diamond Skills Baseball Camp with guest instructor Jamie Callahan of the New York Mets along with numerous college baseball players will hosted camp at the Marion Recreation Green Street Fields on Saturday, December 29, 2018. Ages 6-12. **Mail registration to: Coach Kip Herlong, 1720 Old Corner Court, Marion SC 29571.** For more information please email: Kherlong@att.net

"Rise Above it All"



Councilwoman Tassie Lewis sponsored a "Rise Above it All" coat drive on November 17, 2018 at Shannon Wilkerson Gym. This initiative was a community effort to promote sharing and charing in light of Hurricane Florence. "The goal was to bless our children with new coats for the winter season", Councilwoman Lewis stated. With joint efforts from the City of Marion, Senator Kent Williams and Rev. Marvin Hemingway 200 coats or more were given away. In addition to hats, scarves, gloves and hygiene items were provided to those in need.

From all of us at Marion Recreation to all of you, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Look forward to seeing you all in 2019! **Cliff Wilbanks - Marion Recreation Director along with the Recreation Staff.**

All Aboard!
THE POLAR EXPRESS

Pajama Party & Movie Event **December 9th**
2:00pm - 5:00pm
Train rides on the Polar Express, cookie decorating, face painting letters to Santa, visits with Santa, filling bags of reindeer food & more!
5:30pm - Movie Begins
Food, hot chocolate & popcorn available!

Shannon Wilkerson Gym • 719 N. Main St, Marion
Admission: \$5.00 (Ages 2 & Under Free)
*Bring blanket or chair for your comfort, while viewing The Polar Express

City's Playgrounds

The following City of Marion playgrounds provide free fun and are open to the public:

Withlacoochee Park

Withlacoochee Ave - This park has a walking track and playground equipment. This site holds Marion's Tennis Courts.

Grice's Recreation Center

603 Gurley Street - The playground has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and is near the walking track.

Tilghman Park

409 Montgomery Street - This location has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.

Ping Pong Club

Don't forget that Marion Recreation holds a Ping Pong Club every Monday & Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. You can come by on one of these days and freshen up on your ping pong skills, watch some games or learn how to play. For details, call 423-5410.

Cities and busy streets are preparing to celebrate the birth of the King. But take time to thank God for His love for us. May you have a peaceful Christmas!! **Chief Trey Cooper and the Marion Fire Department!**

Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m. at Watsonia Recreation. Bingo is FREE of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.

City Rentals Available

Need a place to have your class reunion, family reunion, church social, or to have a party? We have the perfect location for you, whether an outdoor or indoor event from our picnic shelter or our recreation and fine arts center. Anyone interested in these locations for their events should call Pansy Brown, 423-5410 for availability.



This moment, this day, this season, will never come again. Treasure it, and treasure those you love who make it memorable.

Historic Marion is a great place to visit, shop, dine and live!